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Attorney Docket No. P71338US0  
Application No. 10/583,088

**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of claims:**

Claims 1-67 (canceled).

68 (currently amended): An oligonucleotide primer ~~The oligonucleotide primer according to claim~~  
67 consisting of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3,  
SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, and sequences fully  
complementary thereto.

69 (cancelled).

70 (currently amended): The oligonucleotide primer according to claim ~~67~~ 68 consisting of SEQ ID  
NO: 2, or a sequence fully complementary thereto.

71 (currently amended): The oligonucleotide primer according to claim ~~67~~ 68 consisting of SEQ ID  
NO: 3 or a sequence fully complementary thereto.

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72 (withdrawn – currently amended): The oligonucleotide primer according to claim ~~67~~ 68 consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4 or a sequence fully complementary thereto.

73 (withdrawn – currently amended): The oligonucleotide primer according to claim ~~67~~ 68 consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5 or a sequence fully complementary thereto.

74 (withdrawn – currently amended): The oligonucleotide primer according to claim ~~67~~ 68 consisting of SEQ ID NO: 6 or a sequence fully complementary thereto.

75 (withdrawn – currently amended): The oligonucleotide primer according to claim ~~67~~ 68 consisting of SEQ ID NO: 7 or a sequence fully complementary thereto.

76 (currently amended): A method of hybridizing with and amplifying a nucleic acid from a hepatitis B virus (HBV) comprising the steps of

– hybridizing with and amplifying the nucleic acid from HBV with a primer consisting of an oligonucleotide as defined in claim ~~67~~ 68.

Claims 77 83 (cancelled).

84 (currently amended): A set of oligonucleotides ~~according to claim 83~~ consisting of

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- an oligonucleotide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 and
- at least one oligonucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, and SEQ ID NO: 7.

Claim 85 (cancelled).

86 (previously presented): A set of oligonucleotides according to claim ~~85~~ 84 consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 and SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 87 (cancelled).

88 (currently amended): A set of oligonucleotides comprising

- (a) a set of oligonucleotides according to claim ~~83~~ 84 and
- (b) an oligonucleotide having a length of 15 to 40 nucleotides and including a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, and sequences fully complementary thereto.

89 (withdrawn – currently amended): A set of oligonucleotides comprising

- (a) a set of oligonucleotide according to claim ~~83~~ 84 and

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(b) an oligonucleotide consisting of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, and SEQ ID NO: 15 and carrying a fluorophore moiety at one terminus[,] and a quencher moiety at the other terminus.

Claim 90 (cancelled).

91 (currently amended): A set of oligonucleotides that comprising

- (a) a set of oligonucleotides according to claim 85 86 and
- (b) an oligonucleotide having a length of 15 to 40 nucleotides and including a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8 or and a sequence fully complementary thereto.

92 (withdrawn – currently amended): A set of oligonucleotides comprising

- (a) a set of oligonucleotides according to claim 85 86 and
- (b) an oligonucleotide consisting of a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12 and carrying a fluorophore moiety at one terminus and a quencher moiety at the other terminus.

93 (currently amended): A method for specifically detecting a HBV by amplification in a biological sample, the method comprising the steps of

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(a) contacting a set of oligonucleotides according to claim 83 84 with a biological sample or nucleic acid preparation obtained from a biological sample under conditions suitable for the oligonucleotides to hybridize to a HBV nucleic acid present in the sample,

(b) amplifying the HBV nucleic acid using the oligonucleotides as primers, and

(c) detecting the amplification product and, thereby, indicating the presence of a HBV in the biological sample.

94 (previously presented): The method according to claim 93, wherein the HBV nucleic acid is amplified by polymerase chain reaction.

95 (currently amended): The method according to claim 93, wherein the detection of the amplification product is performed by using an oligonucleotide having a length of 15 to 40 nucleotides and including a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, and sequences fully complementary thereto and wherein the oligonucleotide is detectably labeled and useful as a probe.

96 (currently amended): The method according to claim 95, wherein the oligonucleotide carries a fluorophore moiety at one terminus, and ~~a quencher moiety at the other terminus~~ and a quencher moiety at the other terminus.

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97 (withdrawn – previously presented): The method according to claim 95, wherein the oligonucleotide is SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14 or SEQ ID NO: 15.

98 (previously presented): The method according to claim 93, wherein the detection of the amplification product is performed by using an oligonucleotide having a length of 15 to 40 nucleotides and including a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 or a sequence fully complementary thereto and carrying a fluorophore moiety at one terminus and a quencher moiety at the other terminus.

99 (withdrawn – previously presented): The method according to claim 98, wherein the oligonucleotide including a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 or a sequence fully complementary thereto is SEQ ID NO: 12.

100 (currently amended): A kit for amplifying HBV in a biological sample, which kit comprises

- at least one set of oligonucleotides according to claim ~~83~~ 84 useful as primers and
- means for amplifying a HBV nucleic acid to obtain an amplified product.

101 (previously presented): The kit according to claim 100, which further comprises means for detection of the amplified product.

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102 (previously presented): The kit according to claim 100, wherein the means for amplifying the HBV nucleic acid is means for amplification by polymerase chain reaction.

103 (currently amended): The kit according to claim 100 wherein the at least one set of oligonucleotides comprises an oligonucleotide having a length of 15 to 40 nucleotides and including a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, and sequences fully complementary thereto and wherein the oligonucleotide is detectably labeled and useful as a probe.

104 (withdrawn—previously presented): The kit according to claim 103, wherein the oligonucleotide is SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, or SEQ ID NO: 15.

105 (currently amended): The kit according to claim 100 wherein the at least one set of oligonucleotides comprises an oligonucleotide having a length of 15 to 40 nucleotides and including a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 or a sequence fully complementary thereto and wherein the oligonucleotide is detectably labeled and useful as a probe.

106 (withdrawn—previously presented): The kit according to claim 105 wherein the oligonucleotide is SEQ ID NO: 12.